

Calendar of Events – 2011



Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex

January

Second Saturday: Bald Eagles

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

January 8

9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Discover the beauty of America's national symbol, the Bald Eagle. Program begins with a film, *American Eagle*, and is followed by a nature walk or a car caravan to Hood Park to find migrating eagles.



February

Second Saturday: Great Backyard Bird Count

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

February 12

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Observe and learn about ducks, swans, geese, and other migrating birds. The refuge will supply bird lists, binoculars, and a spotting scope for close-up viewing. Results will be entered at www.ebird.org. If weather permits, we will have an activity on mist netting and bird banding.

March

Waterfowl Surveys and Crane Spotting

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge

March 3 – 8:30a-11:30a

March 8 – 3:00p-6:00p

March 11 – 2:00p-5:00p

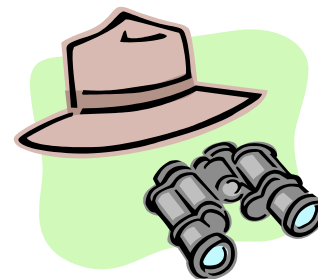
March 14 – 9:30a-12:30p

March 17 – 1:00p-4:00p

March 22 – 7:30a-10:30a

March 29 – 9:30a-12:30p

Join Refuge Wildlife Biologist, Gordon Warrick, as he conducts waterfowl surveys and looks for cranes (among other migratory birds) throughout Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. Each survey can accommodate up to nine visitors who will be required to sign a volunteer form. Bring binoculars to enhance your viewing experience. Surveys may be canceled due to inclement weather (or fog). To sign up call 509-546-8300.



Second Saturday: Kite Flying

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

March 12

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Celebrate spring by making and flying your own bird kite. Kite master, Greg Greger, will show you how easy this is with basic everyday materials. This activity is a favorite for all ages.

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge and Greater Othello Area

March 25 – 27

Experience the beauty and wonder of wildlife, highlighted by the return of sandhill cranes, to the Channeled Scabland's geology. This three-day community event has a variety of activities from tours and lectures on the area's natural and cultural heritage to an art contest and children's activities. For more information: www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/ (fee charged)



April

Second Saturday: Earth Day - Let's Clean Up Our Refuge!

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

April 9

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Put on your grubs and slip on your gloves! Join us for an Earth Day pre-celebration by cleaning up trash at McNary National Wildlife Refuge. We will be focusing on two areas by foot: headquarters and hunting areas; and one by kayak: shorelines reached by launching at Casey Pond. Bring gloves and meet at the McNary Environmental Education Center. Clean-up sponsored by WISP (Washington Inland Sea Kayaking Club), REI, and the Friends of Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuges.



May

Second Saturday: International Migratory Bird Day

Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge and

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

May 14

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Across the globe, folks will celebrate bird migrations. We will identify, count and observe bird species throughout the morning. McNary will host bird games and activities about the amazing effort and obstacles birds experience on their migrations. Toppenish will host a hayride through the refuge. For more information about International Migratory Bird Day, visit

www.birdday.org/

June

Second Saturday: Bugs Galore!

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

June 11

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Explore the wonderful world of small critters in the shrub steppe habitat and along the wetlands. Nets, jars, and microscopes will be provided. Who knows what you will find when you shake a shrub, part a flower, or turn over a rock? Special guest, James Dillman, will assist us in butterfly identification.



July

Second Saturday: Nature Crafts & Fairy Houses

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

July 9

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

What can you do with sticks, leaves, cattails, rocks, or milkweed pods? Craft a critter hut for small creatures, make a toy, or even weave a tiny raft to float on the wetland. We'll show you how. Bring your imagination!

August

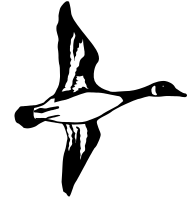
Second Saturday: Greenwing Day

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

August 13

8:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Discover how to band a duck, identify waterfowl, call geese and ducks, retrieve ducks with a Labrador, and much more. Members from Ducks Unlimited and the Richland Rod and Gun Club will be on hand to teach youth of all ages about wildlife conservation through a variety of outdoor activities. Join us for our most popular annual event!



September

Second Saturday: Geocaching and Hunter Blind Preparation Day

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

September 10

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Virtual Geocaching! Let's learn how to geocache with GPS units. We will teach you how, then walk the nature trail and find special items on your list. Turn in your list for a prize. Everyone's a winner!

Hunter Blind Preparation Day - Spruce up the waterfowl hunting blinds! Bring gloves, boots, waders, and tools to work on the blinds. Meet at the McNary Environmental Education Center for a brief orientation.

National Public Lands Day

Yakima Delta Habitat Management Unit, Richland

September 24

Time: TBD

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance public lands. Join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies to enhance public land along the Yakima River by pulling weeds and collecting trash.



October

Second Saturday: National Wildlife Refuge Week

Open House at Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge

October 8

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Travel to Glenwood, WA, and explore Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge at the base of Mt. Adams. Explore the Refuge, the new buildings, and the wildlife through a variety of activities, from bird walks to refuge tours. Sandhill Cranes will regale you with their bubbly song as you walk the Willard Springs Trail. Oregon Spotted Frogs hop to and fro in the water inlets. This refuge is a must see!

November

Second Saturday: Owls & Owl Pellets

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

November 12

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Why are owls so mysterious? Learn the secrets of their eyes, feathers, neck vertebrae, and hunting skills. Then, examine and dissect owl pellets to figure out what they eat and what they can't digest.



December

Second Saturday: Learning How to Care for Planet Earth

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

December 10

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We all live on Planet Earth. Let's learn how to care for our planet one carbon molecule at a time. View current videos on why we need your help and what you can do. If snow is on the ground, we will take a walk and discuss what animal signs we find, and how these animals adapt to changing seasons and climate. If no snow, we will have a puppet show.



All events are free, unless specified, and open to the public.

Second Saturday events are sponsored by the Friends of Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuges.

For more information:

Friends of Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuges

<http://friendsofmcrwr.org/>

Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex

<http://www.fws.gov/mcriver/>

(509) 546-8300

